

Message Text

PAGE 01 BANGKO 02389 121436Z

46

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 002927

R 121255Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 563

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2389

EXDIS

NO DISTRUBUTION OUTSIDE OF EA

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS:PFOR, TH, EGEN

SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC STATUS FOR THAI INVESTMENT COUNSELOR AND
TRADE CENTER IN NEW YORK

FOR HUMMEL FROM KINTNER

1. I HAVE RECEIVED A COPY OF EA/TB'S JANUARY 24
MEMORANDUM TO THE FILES CONCERNING DIPLOMATIC STATUS
FOR AN "OFFICE OF INVESTMENT COUNSELOR" AND FOR A
THAI TRADE CENTER IN NEW YORK CITY.THESE WILL BE
TWO SEPARATE OFFICES REPRESENTING THE BOARD OF
INVESTMENT AND THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, RESPECTIVELY.
THEY WOULD BE CO-LOCATED IN THE NEW WORLD TRADE CENTER
BUILDINGS. I HAVE YET TO RECEIVE THE TELEGRAM THAT
I UNDERSTAND WILL BE FORTHCOMING ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. WE ROUTINELY ENJOY IN THAILAND PRIVILEGES THAT
WOULD SHATTER THE MOST LIBERAL PRECEDENTS OF THE
LEGAL ADVISOR AND THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, NOT TO MENTION
THE CONGRESS OF VIENNA. MOREOVER, THE HIGHEST LEVELS
OF THEUSG CONSIDER THESE PRIVILEGES ESSENTIAL
TO OUR TOP NATIONAL SECURUTY PRIORITIES RELATING
TO INDOCHINA. THESE PRIVILEGES INCLUDE, INTER
ALIA, DIPLOMATIC STATUS FOR OUR COMMERCIAL SECTION HERE,
AND OUR TRADE CENTER WHICH PRECEDED IT. IT ALSO INDLUDES
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 02389 121436Z

DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY FOR SOME 2500 MILITARY PERSONNEL
SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM IN ADDITION TO AID
PERSONNEL COVERED BY THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT.

3. OUR REPORTING HAS INDICATED THAT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS EARNESTLY SETTING ABOUT THE TASK OF TRYING TO REDUCE AND "REGULARIZE" OUR PRESENCE HERE IN WAYS THAT PROMISE TO REDOUND TO OUR EVERLASTING INCONVENIENCE, NOT TO MENTION LOSS OF VALUABLE OPERATING FLEXIBILITY. THE MFA AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN ACCUSING US OF USING THAILAND FOR OUR OWN CONVENIENCE WITH SCANT CONSIDERATION TO THEIR NATIONAL INTERESTS.

4. I CANNOT IMAGINE ANYTHING THAT WOULD CONVINCE THEM MORE OF THE RECTITUDE OF THEIR CAUSE, AND GIVE VOLATIVES FUEL TO THEIR AGREEMENTS. THAN TO REFUSE TO GIVE FULL DIPLOMATIC STATUS TO THE PROPOSED "OFFICE OF INVESTMENT COUNSELOR" AND TRADE CENTER IN NEW YORK CITY. IT IS AN ACCIDENT OF HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY THAT IN THE U.S. WE PURPOSELY SEPARATED OUR COMMERCIAL AND FEDERAL CAPITALS. SUCH A DISTINCTION, WHICH IS NOW TECHNOLOGICALLY OBSOLETE, IS SURE TO BE TOTALLY LOST ON A THAI WHO ONLY SEES THAT THAILAND GIVES US VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING WE ASK, AND GETS LITTLE BY WAY OF RECIPROCITY. IT WILL MAKE AN UGLY HEADLINE INDEED WHEN MFA LEAKS THE NEWS TO THE PAPERS.

5. I URGE YOU TO DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO HELP US BY CONVINCING THE POWERS THAT DECIDE THESE THINGS THAT IN THIS INSTANCE THE U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST IS BETTER SERVED BY ACCEDING TO THAILAND'S MODEST REQUEST THAN BY PROTECTING PRECEDENTS AT THE RISK OF LOSING SOME OF WHAT WE ENJOY HERE. AT THE VERY LEAST, THE HEADS OF THESE TWO OFFICES SHOULD HAVE DIPLOMATIC STATUS AND THE STAFF MEMBERS CONSULAR STATUS, ASSUMING THE RTG WOULD OBLIGE US BY CONFERRING THE NECESSARY CONSULAR TITLES ON THE OFFICIALS. (FYI: WE HAVE ALSO HEARD INFORMALLY THAT THE TOURIST ORGANIZATION OF THAILAND (TOT) IS ALSO CONSIDERING HAVING A REPRESENTATIVE CO-LOCATED WITH THE OTHER TWO. DIPLOMATIC STATUS FOR TOT WOULD SEEM MUCH LESS IMPORTANT, AND INAPPROPRIATE. END FYI)

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 02389 121436Z

6. PLEASE KEEP ME POSTED ON THE PROGRESS OF THIS VERY URGENT MATTER.
KINTNER

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ANGKO02389
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 XGDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740267/abbryskm.tel
Line Count: 100
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <01 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DIPLOMATIC STATUS FOR THAI INVESTMENT COUNSELOR AND TRADE CENTER IN NEW YORK
TAGS: PFOR, TH, EGEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005